

### REMARKS

In the Action, claims 1-9, 11-30, 32-42, 44 and 45 are rejected, and claims 10, 31 and 43 are objected to but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, independent claims 1, 18 and 35 are amended to include the subject matter of allowable claims 10, 31 and 43, respectively. Claims 10, 31 and 43 are cancelled. These amendments are submitted to obviate the rejections over the cited art. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 11-30, 32-42, 44 and 45 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

The present amendment amends the specification and claims to correct the spelling of "*Rosmarinus officinalis* L." as suggested in the Action. These amendments are submitted to overcome the objections raised in the Action.

New claims 46-51 are also added to recite additional features of the invention that are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Specifically, independent claim 46 is directed to a preservative and stabilizing composition comprising 5 to 40 wt% of *Origanum vulgare* L., *Thymus vulgaris* L., *Rosmarinus officinalis* L., and *Lavandula officinalis* L. The art of record does not disclose or suggest a preservative and stabilizing composition comprising the claimed amounts of these components. Thus, independent claim 46 is submitted to be allowable over the art of record.

Claims 47-51 depend from claim 46 and recite additional features of the invention that are not disclosed in the art of record. For example, claim 47 depends from claim 46 to recite the specific amount of the *Hydrastis canadensis* L. in combination with the composition of claim 46. Claims 48-51 also recite the specific amounts of the components of the preservative and stabilizing composition. Support for these claims is found on page 8 and page 12 of the specification.

In view of these amendments and the above comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: Sept 12, 2006